

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & ESTONIA

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$2,489,731, including \$233,082 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Estonia.

In addition to the United States' longstanding support for the IAEA's activities to promote peaceful nuclear applications, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the United States announced a \$100 million USD effort to expand this support over the next five years. The U.S. has pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development.

The U.S. views its support for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to which all NPT Parties are entitled, as a critical

part of its broader effort to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The U.S. has already designated over \$22 million for IAEA projects benefitting over 120 countries, including Estonia, for which funding was previously unavailable. The U.S. is working with partners to reach the \$100 million goal, and welcomes commitments of over \$12 million from Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Several Member States are considering expanding or introducing nuclear power programs which requires careful preparation to establish the legal, regulatory, technological, and human resources necessary. Estonia is therefore participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the U.S. to strengthen national and regional infrastructures for the planning and development of nuclear power programs. The project will ensure that participating Member States have a complete understanding of the range of issues and activities to be addressed before implementation of a nuclear power project.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Disused facilities contaminated because of activities involving radioactive material exist worldwide and many pose continuing health risks. Estonia is currently participating in an interregional TC project sponsored by the United States that will provide assistance toward the efficient clean-up of radioactive contaminated facilities and sites. Estonia is also participating in several regional TC projects through

which Member States will improve their comprehensive regulatory infrastructure for the safety and control of radiation sources, establish and develop adequate and effective regulatory mechanisms, and harmonize and streamline national capabilities for regulatory control in full compliance with the IAEA Safety Standards and international requirements.

AGRICULTURE

The Mediterranean fruit fly causes problems in international fruit and vegetables trade due to quarantine regulations imposed by some countries, and maximum insecticide residue limits allowed by others. Estonia is therefore working through a regional TC project sponsored by the U.S. to enhance agricultural productivity in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean by supporting fruit fly pest prevention and management. This will be accomplished through sharing technical knowledge and providing support to selected fruit fly suppression programs in which the use of the sterile insect technique (SIT), as part of an area-wide integrated management approach, has already proven to be technically and economically feasible.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The IAEA awards individual fellowships and organizes group training courses to contribute to human resource development in Member States. In 2007, Estonia participated in a training course on nuclear security hosted in the United States. Additionally, since 2000, three U.S. experts have traveled to Estonia to collaborate through various IAEA Technical Cooperation projects. Topics included radioactivity and safety assessment.



Damaged apples infested with fruit flies.
Credit: Louise Potterton/IAEA

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